

Student Prints



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ILLUSTRATION BY LUCY P



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D.A. ALL DAY!



Illustration by Lucy P. '27

The World's Longest Noodle and Other Adventures from China

By Mary S. '28

After a 15-hour flight to Hong Kong, a layover, and a three hour flight to Shanghai's Pudong Airport, four D.A. girls, fifteen Regions, their Mandarin teacher, and D.A.'s Ms. Yang had finally arrived. It was June 15, 2026.

At the Bund (Shanghai's waterfront skyline pathway that reminded me of Times Square), Eileen, Maja, Georgia and I must have talked to about thirty Chinese people. Georgia and I take Mandarin and were excited to interact with strangers; Eileen and Maja don't, but caught on. We asked the Chinese people if they knew about the New York Knicks and chopped cheese sandwiches. They gave confused answers but tried their very hardest to connect with us. This effort to connect – whether with the Chinese or the fifteen Regions who were all strangers to us – was the theme of this trip.

Since 2019, Regis and D.A. have participated in an annual cultural exchange program with China's Nanjing Foreign Language school called the Ricci Scholars Program. It's named for Matteo Ricci, a 16th century Jesuit missionary, who traveled to China and bonded with the Chinese scholar Xu Guanqi. Ricci built bridges between East and West, showing that once you acknowledge the creativity and soul of a stranger, they don't stay a stranger for long. During the next few days in Shanghai, we visited museums, explored indoor and outdoor shopping centers, went to gardens and talked to Chinese locals like they were our best friends. We even started talking to the Regions.

After Shanghai and Wuzhen (the "Venice" of the East because of its breathtaking water canals), we went to the Lingyin Temple in Hangzhou. People here were burning incense and bowing intently before enormous, fifty-foot golden statues of the Buddha. This made me realize how I had been barely exposed to any religions besides Christianity, Judaism, and Islam before this trip. It reminded me just how little of the world I had actually seen, and it made me excited to see more of it!

Our next stop was the city of Jinhua, where we were about to become (almost) famous. Late at night, in our hotel, we had rewritten several songs from musicals and Disney movies to retell the story of Matteo Ricci. Our Nanjing hosts arranged to have our performance filmed – with professional sound, lighting, and traditional Chinese costumes at the Hengdian World Studio,



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where the majority of Chinese television is filmed. In addition to this, we toured a pig farm, visited a secluded mountain village and held the world's longest noodle in our arms.

I think that I will appreciate my time in China when I look back on it. My Mandarin improved substantially because of constant immersion in the language. I grew closer with my fellow D.A. students and made lots of friends from Regis. We got all of the Chinese students' social media handles and still talk to them to this day. Like Ricci, we made lifelong friends on the other side of the planet and realized we're not so different from them.



Summer Fun!

By Sarah P. '30

Have you ever seen a carousel so fast it made your stomach twist while listening to the best Spanish music you have ever heard? How about a miniature golf course so grand it takes over two hours to complete the entire thing? Over the summer, I traveled to the Dominican Republic for a few days and stayed with my mother and father at a hotel, where they had a tremendous carnival! My parents are both Dominican, so every year they try their best to visit the Dominican Republic at least once. The carnival had many amusement park rides, such as a carousel, and even an outdoor miniature golf course. I did not go on any of the rides because of how fast they went, but even just watching them speed by so quickly made my heart race. The miniature golf course was only open during the night, but it was amazing to witness because of the lights that perfectly illuminated the carnival. The golf course had both glacier and dinosaur themes. The scenery really made everything beautiful to look at; it was extremely difficult for me to leave. I felt very comfortable and right at home when I was in the Dominican Republic since I already speak Spanish at home with my mom.

In addition, one of my favorite parts of my summer break was going shopping at the Cross County Mall. My favorite store is Miniso; I had an extra fun time going because they recently collaborated with one of my favorite series called "Chiikawa." Everything inside of the store was adorable; there were plushies, pillows, blind boxes, and even blankets of all my favorite characters such as Hachiware and Shisa. I



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adore these characters so much that I bring them with me everywhere on my school backpack as keychains. When I visited, the store was empty, so I was able to walk around and take my time feeling the fluffiness of each plushie. Each touch felt like a soft blanket that was fresh from the dryer. There was a collection of plushies that had the characters dressed in fairy costumes and it was the cutest sight I had ever seen. I ended up going back to the same store three times over the summer to keep collecting merchandise. The air felt nicely cool on my skin, especially since it was extremely hot on the days I went. It was the perfect break for me to stop in the mall and just admire everything on display at my own pace.



The Summer of a Lifetime

By Victoria M. '30

This summer, my family and I flew to North Carolina, where we spent one week at a comfortable rented beach house with our paternal cousins, uncles, aunts, and grandparents. We spent our time between the beach and the pool, catching sandcrabs and fish, swimming in the ocean, playing in the waves, gliding through the light currents on our boogie boards, soaking in the sun, and refreshing ourselves in the cool ocean. I woke up to the bright southern sun beaming through the bedroom window and the sound of my excited cousins making themselves breakfast and changing into their bathing suits. Every night, I slept under my cool, red comforter with my soft pillow, exhausted from the day's fun. After the bittersweet goodbye at the end of the week, we were sad, but excited for the adventures that next year's vacation could bring.

A week later I was catching another flight, but this time to stay with my maternal side of the family. Although we live in Spain for over a month each summer where my siblings and I practice our fluent Spanish, our trips have always varied slightly. This summer, my mother left my four siblings and me in a small tourist town right outside of Barcelona, called Lloret de Mar, in a two-bedroom apartment with our grandparents. Every summer, they welcomed us with open arms. When it came to chores, my siblings and I were a real team, cleaning up and cooking to the best of our ability (although our grandmother always found something we hadn't fixed



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quite right). While we all had a lot of fun, the apartment was very crowded, with seven people practically sleeping on top of each other, and sometimes, with the unbearable heat and lack of air conditioning, even the smallest of chores grew irksome and everyone got very irritable. We stayed nearly a month there, alleviating ourselves from the sweltering Mediterranean sun in the building's freezing-cold pool by swimming laps, practicing how to dive, challenging each other to ping pong, patiently learning how to play tennis, playing with our five-year-old Catalan cousin, and staying up late to watch the suspenseful, but thrilling World Cup Final.

The night of the World Cup Final was filled with tension and suspense as my siblings and I stayed up until 1 a.m. yelling at Argentina and cheering for Spain through the TV, while my grandparents tried to quiet us to maximize their concentration on the game. When Spain finally scored the first (and only) goal, the living room erupted into cheers and whoops and distant screams of joy could be heard from outside. My



grandmother even passed out a bit of chocolate to us kids (even though it was past twelve o'clock at night).

When our uncle and aunt came from Barcelona to visit us on the weekend, the calm pool turned into a furious battle of five children squealing and playfully attacking our uncle while he jokingly tried to push our heads under the water. On weekends we also ate delicious meals that reminded us of our mother's wonderful cooking (whose skills seemed to run through her family), including empanadas, gazpacho, and lazaña at our aunt's and cousin's house in the town and occasionally we went to the beach and floated around in the deep, but oh-so-refreshing crystal-clear Mediterranean sea filled with beautiful fish.



A month later, when we left the town and drove over northern Spain to our

mother's hometown, Pamplona, our parents came from the United States and we spent a week exploring the area, including San Sebastian and our grandfather's tiny village and house, and visiting our mother's immense paternal and maternal sides of the family. Despite the hot, merciless sun we faced during our eventful, immersive experience to Spain, our grandmother cooked tortillas, relleno, pinchos, san jacobos, and many other delicious, typical



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Iborean foods. Even though we are almost perfectly fluent, my siblings and I grew stronger and more agile in our Spanish speaking skills and became more adept in communicating with each other in the Spanish language. After an eventful week, we flew back to New York, home-sweet-home, and I was ready to begin an exciting high school experience as a freshman here at D.A.!

New Beginnings

By Virginia R. '30

The morning of my first day of school at Dominican Academy was met with a mixture of nerves and anticipation. Not only was it the start of a new school year, but also the beginning of my high school career. It was as I scanned my student ID that this new reality clicked into place: I am starting high school, a blank slate. I had been at the same school for four years, and this is the first time for a while that I have had to learn a lot of new information piled on top of my school workload. It is almost like learning a new language, but I have been lucky enough to gain some amazing friends going through the same experience. We have all been helping each other through these new trials, including homework, tests, and adapting to the new environment. In addition to making new friends, I have also reconnected with old friends from my middle school who are now here at D.A.

It was extremely interesting to see Dominican Academy in its natural, unfiltered school life. When prospective students come for a tour, it seems like the

school community shows off the most perfect parts of the school, but not so much of what a day-to-day experience would be like. You can see the bones rather than the polished exterior of the school on the first day, and I liked what I saw. The teachers, students, and school community as a whole form a loving and accepting place. One of the other freshmen, Cloe F., stated, "I found the first day of school super exciting! I met so many new faces and teachers along with faculty, staff, and administration. I believe that the Dominican Academy community is not only loving and caring, but also a place where you don't have to be afraid to share your concerns, passions, and excitements."

It's always sad to see the summer come to a close, and to return to another school year of homework and tests. However, the first day of school surpasses that disappointment with the excitement of seeing friends, making new ones, and meeting teachers. It was a bit of a shock to the system, but then again every day at school brings new excitements and marvels.

I am personally following in the footsteps of my ancestors. My grandmother, her sisters, and more of my family all went to school at Dominican Academy, walking the same hallways that I will for the next four years. I am proud to carry on their legacy, but even so, I was nervous. The Dominican Academy school community was extremely welcoming and quickly abated my worries of not fitting in or keeping pace. Although I was exhausted by the time I got home (perhaps from the countless trips up and down the stairs), my first day was full of



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new wonders and entrancing delights. The first day of school tends to be a predictor for the rest of the school year, and if mine was anything to go by, I will have a wonderful freshman year.

The First Day of School: Nerves, Community, and Excitement

By Emily F. '28

On the beautiful, warm morning of September 14, 2026, new and returning students were welcomed to Dominican Academy. After two days of orientation where students received a refresher on school rules and were given their schedules for the year, the first full day of classes came into full effect on that Monday morning.

Before school started at 8:25 a.m., D.A. girls could be found lounging on the Mezzanine or relaxing in the Cafeteria while catching up with friends after a rejuvenating summer break then finding their lockers and preparing themselves for the school year to come. Students were greeted with the friendly faces of their new teachers, as well as the reassuring presence of their past ones as they took on the new school year. In many classes (as is typical on the first day of school), teachers laid out the year's expectations and went over their syllabus in order to set up the students for a successful year. In some classes, students were able to dive right into the course material - thanks to the work they did over the summer!

The first day of school brings something new and is exciting, no matter what grade you are in, as each year provides a different experience, and a new way to

grow. For seniors, it is their last year of high school, and is the beginning of the end of their time of D.A., which makes the first day even more nostalgic. Juniors face a new sense of responsibility, as now they must be role models and guides to the underclassmen. Sophomores gain more confidence, as they already know the school and students. However, freshmen might have had the most special day, their first day of high school! Their experience must have been the most nerve-racking, yet thrilling, with getting to meet new people, friends, and teachers and getting to attend their first classes as a student at Dominican Academy. I mean, who could forget the bonding that ensued while trying to locate your classes despite not knowing where you are going?

As a junior, I had a day jam packed with classes, which was exciting because it meant I got to meet all of my teachers, and I got to see with whom I had classes. I was easily able to navigate the school, and I had an extra boost of confidence knowing that I was finally one of the oldest girls in the school. D.A. was filled with a special buzz as we also prepared for picture day, which had everyone a little nervous. When it was our time to take our photos, the D.A. community really came together, everyone would ask each other, "How should I smile?" Or "Does my hair look okay?"

As the day wrapped up at 3:00 p.m., students went their separate ways. Some went to their various sports practices or games, while others may have gone to celebrate the day with their friends or headed straight home to rest from the lively



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day. No matter where the day took them, all students definitely had a very memorable first day back at Dominican Academy.

Cheers to Fresh Starts

By Olivia M. '30

The first day of school truly wasn't what anyone expected. The doors swung open at 7:30 am sharp for the first time in months, and the building was packed to the brim with girls filling up every stairwell and hallway. Every turn you took, you were jumpscared by yet another person hiding around the corner. But everyone was different. Some girls ran into the building, scanned their IDs, and effortlessly made it to their first class of the day. But there was one group of girls, who stopped dead in the entryway just to take everything in for the first time. There was no fresh crayon or textbook smell as all of the books we read have described. Instead, it was replaced by the sweet aroma of the food being cooked in the cafeteria. Then everyone snapped back to reality at the blaring of the first bell. Though nobody was really sure of what it meant.

"What is MPR supposed to stand for?"

"How should I know? Go ask a senior or something."

"I can't, they'll think I'm weird!"

The weirder thing was that no one thought that about another girl. The question would be followed by a friendly chuckle, and the start of a new friendship. No girl would be spotted walking down the hallways alone. The freshmen stood out - no

doubt. Their uniforms were neat and freshly ironed; their hair curled or straightened, which took them hours to perfect. They had anxious looks on their faces, their schedules color coded and clutched tightly in their hands, and backpacks organized - just ready to get messed up by the end of the week. All of this to make the best first impression. They moved in small clusters, occasionally stopping to make sure that they were going the right way.

The sophomores were easily distinguishable. They strutted along the hallways with confidence, feeling like they were on top of the world. Some stopped along the way to catch up with teachers. Others leaned against their lockers, thinking they knew so much more about life and D.A. after surviving their first year.

The juniors seem to have mastered every trick in the book. They swiftly slipped through crowds with their friends, talking about everything that was on their minds. For them, it's like the previous year didn't even end at all.

And then there were the seniors. They crowded on the mezzanine, without a single care in their minds. They silently observed the chaos below, wondering how the time passed by so fast for them. They all had one common focus: to take it all in one last time.

By lunch, it was like the entire atmosphere shifted. Girls who have only known each other for a few hours, looked like they had known each other for a few years. Nervous whispers turned into booming conversations. The quiet corners



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were then suddenly filled with laughter. The girls who were sure they were going to spend their year alone had found their people. Everything just seemed to click into place. It was not forced either, it just felt comfortable. For a small moment, all the worries about upcoming tests and homework were gone. Four grades. Hundreds of girls. One school. And somehow, among the sounds of conflicting voices and footsteps, that first day was slowly becoming a memory.

No one knew, and no one yet knows it yet, but years from now, they will remember even the small things: The girl that they bumped into while both were rushing to their classes; the classroom they somehow couldn't find; the conversations you could hear from the bottom of the stairs. The first day truly wasn't what anyone expected. Maybe that was the whole point.

Big Sisters, New Sisters, One Family By Cloe F. '30

The Freshmen Senior Picnic, a staple at Dominican Academy, brings together freshmen and seniors to enjoy a comforting and beautiful event. Experiencing this for the first time as a freshman myself, I loved not only the girls and the event, but also the memories we all made together. This day welcomes the freshmen, who are just beginning their D.A. journey through study, community, and friendships, and also the seniors, who have worked tirelessly throughout these past four years and are about to embark on their college journeys. It reminds both grades of the love,

compassion, and home that they have here at Dominican Academy, whether they are wrapping up their time here or just making their first footprints on a long path.

At around 1:30 in the afternoon, all the seniors went up to their freshmen's homerooms to bring them down to the picnic. The gathering had been moved from Central Park to the second floor due to the light drizzle outside that could have frizzed up our hair and wet our skirts on the grass. Yet we all made the most of it, listening to music in the Auditorium with the faculty and staff. Ms. Angway, Ms. Belcastro, Ms. Egan and so many others were there to enjoy the event. Sitting in small circles with our big sisters, we enjoyed our sandwiches of tomato and cheese with pesto or ham and cheese. Additionally, all the seniors brought a little sweet treat to share with their freshmen buddies. In our circle, my senior buddy, Tammy, and her friends all brought candy to make a special "candy salad," basically a mixture of different sweets all put together in a bowl with each individual person bringing something to add, which we all shared and ate with delight. We went around the circle and shared a fun fact about ourselves as we put our treats in. When it came my turn, I said that I loved to windsurf and added more candy to the already overflowing dish.

As we ate our lunch, I asked Tammy, "What was your freshmen senior picnic like?" Tammy responded happily, "It was in the park and it was really fun! My senior sisters' names were Niamh and Keira and we all played fruit basket. Overall, it was an



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amazing time! It's become one of my favorite times of the year!" I also asked her what it was like to now be a big sister. "It's amazing and my freshmen sisters are so sweet!" Tammy enthusiastically replied.

Freshman Virginia R. shared what it is like to have her senior sister help her. "Having a big sister has been amazing! I can ask her questions about Dominican Academy and advice for the future." She



added, "My senior sister advised me about classes and how to have a wonderful year!"

Overall, I believe that all the freshmen will remember this day as making their first steps in the community of D.A. and seniors will take this experience as one of their fondest memories before they take off on their journeys of becoming strong, confident, and empowering women who will impact our world for the better. I was amazed by how much I enjoyed the event and how much bigger my world has become with the help of not only my senior sister but also my fellow freshmen. I loved everything about it, the music, the food, and most of all,

the quality time spent with those around me. I hope to see and experience even more with my time here at D.A. and never forget this day that rocked my world in the best way possible!



Let's Go Clubbing! The DA Club Fair

By Sofia C. '28

During the Club Fair, students of all grades gather in the Auditorium and MPR to learn about D.A.'s many clubs. The Club Fair is one of D.A.'s most popular events. Old and new students are invited to sign up for the over 20 clubs that were presented this year! Through shared loves and hobbies, students find different ways to build our D.A. community. The Club Fair allows students to expand their interests in common topics and goals while in the company of their peers. Over a two-day period, upper and underclassmen get a taste of the clubs D.A. has to offer.

On September 28th, the freshman and sophomore classes were invited to come for the first session of the Club Fair. While the juniors and seniors carefully set up their



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boards and prepared to represent their clubs, we all anticipated the excitement of a new year. Some clubs set out snacks while others prepared silly songs. No matter the club, each one shared what made their club stand out. When the doors opened, many excited students rushed in, ready to take in everything. From the vantage point of the Book Club table, I saw many joyous faces, heard so many questions, and comments being made, and felt the exhilaration of a new year of clubs. While representing the Book Club for the first time was a bit nerve-wracking, seeing all of the happy faces instantly made me feel much better. We heard the freshmen discussing all of the new clubs that they would join this year from Yearbook to Glee Club to Dance Club to Literary Journal and more!

On September 29, it was the junior and seniors' turn. Many upperclassmen entered the room, adding their names to new clubs and renewing their membership to familiar ones. Seeing all the students enjoy themselves and even signing up for some new clubs myself, I truly enjoyed the experience. New this year, Art Club and Biochemistry Club welcomed their inaugural members while recurring clubs, like Campus Ministry and Student Prints, gained new members and welcomed back returning ones.

The Club Fair is truly an amazing experience for all who participate, whether it be behind the board or in front of it. During my freshman and sophomore years, I joined as many clubs as I could, thinking that this was the best way to integrate myself into

D.A. Now, as a junior, I realize it is more important to join clubs that align to my interests. Which clubs did you join this year?



Illustration by Lauren W. '28

COLUMNS

Arts And Architecture- Partly Cloudy at the Met

By Iris M. '27

If the dreary gray skies of late have made you feel down, visiting a new exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art is the perfect antidote. Tucked away in a small corner space adjacent to the Met's 19th and Early 20th Century European Paintings and Sculpture gallery is *Chasing Clouds*, where you can spend your afternoon gazing at sunrises, sunsets, and skies both clear and cloudy. The exhibit, which will remain open until February 2027, is as much of a historical exhibit as it is an artistic endeavor. Its collection reflects the evolution of the depiction of the sky and clouds by artists and photographers from the early 1800s to



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the 1920s with the help of scientific and technological advancements. The exhibit contains a wide variety of works and historic explanations, but its small size means that it can be seen in its entirety in roughly 20 minutes. It prominently features the work of artists and photographers Gustave Le Gray, John Constable, Alfred Stieglitz, Eugene Delacroix, and John Singer Sargent.

Capturing the ever-changing image of the sky has always been a daunting task for painters. In the early 19th century, artistic and scientific study of clouds grew popular. Landscape painters worked hard to quickly capture fleeting clouds outdoors, often painting them as backgrounds in a matter of minutes. Around the same time, scientists were developing new techniques to classify the different types of clouds. English artist John Constable coined the term “skying” to refer to his study and sketching of the sky. The exhibit’s first room contains surprisingly small landscape paintings from the early-to-mid-1800s of richly-colored cloudy skies with sunlight peeking through.

The invention of photography brought about a new way for artists to capture the world around them. However, when it came to the sky, capturing clouds successfully in the early days of photography was very difficult due to technological limitations such as exposure times and color sensitivity imbalances. This led artists to develop new techniques to include clouds in their photographs before further photographic advancements were made. For example, artists would often paint

clouds over photographs or combine multiple photo negatives. Many such works are displayed in the exhibit.

Featured heavily is the work of photographer Alfred Stieglitz, who frequently photographed clouds over Lake George, New York. His work was a departure from photographic Pictorialism, a movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries where photographers strove to capture photos that looked like paintings. Stieglitz called his cloud photographs—roughly 20 of which are displayed at the exhibit—“Equivalents,” because his aim was to capture images as realistically as possible.

I appreciated how peaceful and digestible this exhibit was. Its small size meant I could wander slowly without the fear of not seeing every work on display. It struck me how varied the images were, despite the fact that they all depicted some iteration of the same thing—the sky—and that there were almost no human figures. The sky assumed a unique character in each work. The paintings and photographs alike captured the sky in a way that truly portrayed the atmosphere and mood, and gave me the impression of a fleeting moment rather than an image of stagnant clouds stuck in time..

The Metropolitan Museum of Art’s webpage on the exhibit is linked [here](#).



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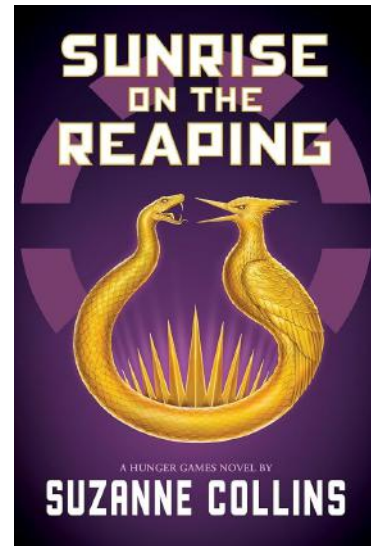
A wall of Alfred Stieglitz's "Equivalents."



Eugene Delacroix's *Sunset*

Book Review- *Sunrise on the Reaping*

By Alice M. '28



Rating: ★★★★★

Title: *Sunrise on the Reaping*

Author: Suzanne Collins

My love of *The Hunger Games* series started in 2019 when I found the first book tucked away on my older cousin's shelf. After devouring this book, I formed an obsession with all things Hunger Games: The books, the movies, and the online BuzzFeed character quizzes became my favorite pastimes. So, when I saw the announcement of *Sunrise on the Reaping*, I immediately pre-ordered the book and impatiently waited for the day it would arrive. The book was everything I hoped for— and more.

Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins follows the Hunger Game of Haymitch Abernathy, the drunken mentor to the protagonists of the Hunger Games original trilogy, Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mallark. The original three books follow these two as they try to survive as tributes in



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the Hunger Games (a game where two children aged 12-18 from each district of Panem are thrown into an arena to fight to the death). Little is known about Haymitch except that he was the victor of the 50th Hunger Games, where there were twice as many tributes. *Sunrise on the Reaping* reveals what Haymitch had to do to survive, and for whom he survived. It alters the reader's perceptions about his character and the nature and development of the Hunger Games.

Throughout Haymitch's time as a tribute and in the games, he keeps a reminder of what his father once said to a past tribute, "Don't let them paint their posters with your blood." Haymitch refuses to become another bit of propaganda for the capital to use, and his actions throughout *Sunrise on the Reaping* mirror his will to "paint his own poster." Haymitch's story left me breathless with his never-ending love for those he cares about and his will to protect them. The book also showed me how, even as an avid reader of the series, I, too, fell for the propaganda of Panem.

Sunrise on the Reaping has been added to my collection of five star books for how it immersed me in Haymitch's story and allowed me to cheer him on throughout the entirety of the book. It added a depth to his character that changes how you perceive his actions throughout the original three books and his relationship to other characters. I recommend this book to anyone who loves the *Hunger Games*, but I suggest reading the other four books in the series beforehand. The book is a masterpiece in

storytelling and I cannot wait to see how it presents on the big screen. *Sunrise on the Reaping* is premiering November 20th and I will be the first one in the theater with a bag of popcorn.

If you have any suggestions for what I should read next please let me know! My email is:

amorrison2028@dominicanacademy.org.

Finance- Your Guide to a Career in Finance

By Paloma G. '28

There are so many career opportunities in finance, but it can be overwhelming to try to understand it all. In high school, especially your junior and senior year, it is important to dive deeper into your interest and discover what you really like. If you are interested in finance, complete this short quiz to see which career you would like the most. Keep track of your answers as there will be an answer key at the end. Remember, use this only as a guide for what you want to do in the future and take your results with a grain of salt. This quiz is solely meant for you to discover careers in finance - not to serve as a Magic 8 Ball that decides your future.

1. What do you do when you are at a wedding?
 - a. I love to socialize and talk with random people to make new friends.
 - b. I like to theorize the cost of everything and think about



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- what I would change to save the most money.
- c. I pull out my computer and catch up on some work. No rest for the wicked!
2. After you come home from school, what is the first thing you do?
- a. I call my friend to catch up. Keeping my social life alive is always my priority!
- b. I come up with a strategic plan to complete my homework while trying to maximize my free time.
- c. Immediately, I get started on studying for the upcoming tests because I need to stay on top of things, especially with all my extracurriculars.
3. How do you usually order when you are at a restaurant?
- a. I like to talk to the waiters and get their recommendations.
- b. I looked up the menu beforehand and picked out my order in advance. I do not like to go into things blindly.
- c. I order one of everything. I already have so much on my plate, why not add more (pun intended)?
4. Your friend tells you she just broke up with her boyfriend. What is your initial reaction?
- a. I make her a gift basket and comfort her.

- b. I immediately come up with a fool-proof strategy to get her over her ex.
- c. I would think that he was a waste of time anyway. There are more important things to do in life then spend your energy on boys, yuck!
5. In two months, you will be going on a trip to Italy with your friends. How are you picking out your outfits?
- a. I text my friends every day to plan coordinating outfits. Life is better when you are twinning!
- b. I check Depop every day for the best deals. No way I am paying full price for an Aritzia skirt.
- c. I make a detailed plan for every outfit from my shirt down to the exact jewelry I would be wearing that day.

If you picked mostly “a”, then wealth management might be the right path in finance for you. In summary, wealth managers work with high net-worth individuals to manage their funds. Wealth managers specifically work on protecting and augmenting their clients money by setting goals and helping their clients achieve those goals in the future. Being a wealth manager can involve many financial concepts, but a crucial part of being a wealth manager is knowing how to talk to clients and build relationships. These skills can come naturally to some (most likely why



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you picked “a”), but it is also possible to build them through practice and time.

If you picked mostly “b”, then you might find corporate finance interesting. Although there are many different sectors in corporate finance, in general, people who have jobs in this field try to maximize a company's profit through determining investment returns, funding projects through stocks and loans, managing company assets, cash flow, etc. Working in corporate finance does not mean that you have to be employed at a bank. All companies have a financial aspect to them, so working in corporate finance means helping companies manage their money, like analyzing sales trends at Sephora. In corporate finance, it is important to be strategic and strive to improve things.

If you picked mostly “c”, then investment banking might be something worth looking into. In investment banking, you provide advice for companies and corporations when they want to buy another company, sell their company, or complete important deals. Although investment bankers make a lot of money compared to other fields in finance, it is a high intensity job. Investment bankers generally work long hours and juggle multiple projects at the same time, so if you want to go into this field, it is important to know how to manage your time and effectively deal with lots of pressure/stress.

No matter what answer you got, I hope this quiz was helpful and provided some guidance regarding choosing a career in finance. Now, I did not cover every possible line of work within finance, but if

you are curious about any of the topics I talked about I encourage you to further research. You never know what you might find! Additionally, if you have any questions or topics of interest that you would like me to cover in future finance columns, please let me know by emailing me at

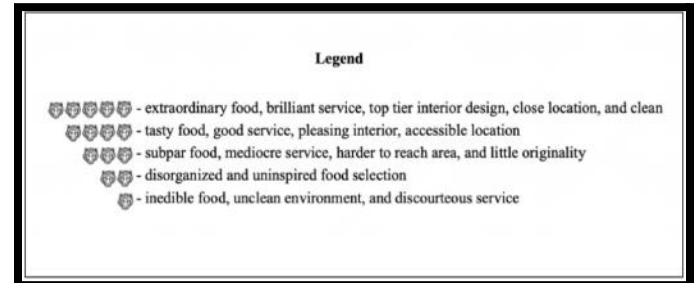
[“pgarg2028@dominicanacademy.org.”](mailto:pgarg2028@dominicanacademy.org)

Thank you!

Upper Eats Side Food Review- Sea Salt

By Setareh B. ‘28

Rating: 



Welcome back to school, Upper Eats Siders! With the new school year, comes many fantastic things, including a new year of Upper Eats Side reviews. I cannot wait to introduce you to tons of new restaurants to test out yourselves!

To start off the first week of classes on a high note, I tried a delectable restaurant located in the heart of the Upper East Side. Sea Salt is a cheerful spot located on 62nd and First Avenue. Covered in bright pink florals, illuminated by string lights and filled with the laughter and conversations of many,



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Sea Salt was the ideal place for a group dinner with my friends and our moms. Throughout their past 4 years of business, they have been inviting guests as one of the neighborhood's most popular Greek and Mediterranean fusion restaurants.

Walking in, I immediately noticed how energetic the restaurant was for a Wednesday. Diners were seated both indoors and out, enjoying the last few warm days of September. The restaurant's atmosphere was inviting. The colorful artwork, warm lighting, and kind hostess allowed my experience at Sea Salt to begin with an excellent initial impression. Sea Salt's interior, inspired by the Greek islands, made the restaurant feel both cordial and elegant. Our group was seated towards the back of the restaurant, away from the majority of other diners, but in a perfect spot to catch up over long conversations.

As if on cue, our waiter greeted us with a warm smile, then left us to ponder our dinner and drink options. The menu consists of a blend between Greek and Mediterranean cuisine with a touch of modern culinary delights. Aside from the typical sodas found at most restaurants, there was also a variety of mocktails that stood out to my friends and me, such as an elderberry-dragonfruit mix. It took us lots of debating (and a few visits from our attentive waiter) to finally decide what we wanted.

Conversation engulfed us as we waited for our food. I took a second to notice the music in the background - not too loud and setting the perfect ambiance for our dinner. Our drinks arrived almost instantly.

One thing you must know about me, which will be vital for this year of reviews, is that I am an avid Diet Coke connoisseur. So when it is a good Diet Coke, I will make it known. The one at Sea Salt sure was. Iced, crisped, and topped with a lemon slice, it was everything a Diet Coke lover wants, and it put me in a good mood, excited for what was to come. My friends also adored their elderberry-dragonfruit mocktail, claiming it was a combination they would never have put together. Before we knew it, our appetizers arrived. We ordered the crispy feta rolls and the Greek chips, both of which I cannot recommend enough. The feta rolls were fried to excellence, with warm feta on the inside and topped with a drizzle of honey. They were a terrific blend of flaky, warm and sweet. The Greek chips were probably my favorite of the two. Crunchy fried zucchini and eggplant dipped in tzatziki, a combination many know, love, and must try at Sea Salt! Simply based on the appetizers, I would go back in a heartbeat to try the many other appetizers on Sea Salt's menu such as the calamari, falafel or spanakopita. Opinions among our table were shared, all of us loved the appetizers, and could not wait to see what we would think of our entrees.

Our main courses arrived at a splendid time. As the waiter brought around our food, our mouths watered. Presentation can mean a lot, and the presentation did not disappoint! Bright colors, perfectly cut meats, and beautiful sides appeared before us. The smell of lemon surrounded us, which seemed to be a common ingredient



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among many of the dishes. The grilled salmon I ordered was cooked very nicely and paired well with the lentils, but adding a sweet- yet-tangy sauce completed the meal. My friend and my mom, who had ordered the same thing, agreed as well. I was hesitant at first because of the lentils, which I do not really like, but this dish completely changed my opinion. Others around the table had ordered the vegetable pasta, bronzino, sea scallops, filet mignon, and Greek salad, and reviews came back positive amongst all. The foods were cooked with precision, with wonderful flavors and delicious sauces. For a few minutes the conversation amongst us quieted as we indulged in the food, appreciating every bite. Our waiter was also very attentive, stopping by several times to make sure everything was tasting to our satisfaction. As we slowly finished our meals, savoring every last bite, we realized we had absolutely no room for desert. Although, the baklava really did call out to me, so I must go back to give it a review.

As my friends, our moms, and I reflected on our meal, we decided that this was simply an impeccable dinner spot for our group to get together, and that we would love to try their brunch menu. The atmosphere, hospitality and, of course, the food made Sea Salt the sublime spot for a fun-yet-cozy dinner. It has made its way into the list of some of my favorite Mediterranean restaurants. I cannot recommend it enough, and hope you give it a try! Till next time, Upper Eats Siders!

Faculty Feature- An Exhilarating Addition to the Arts at D.A.: Mrs. Sharkey

By Sophie A. '29

Among the numerous Tigers that are joining our community at 44 E 68th Street, including the Class of 2030 and several transfer students, is a fervent and thrilling addition to our faculty: Mrs. Sharkey. I had the opportunity to speak to D.A.'s new Music and Drama teacher and learn about her position, her love for the arts, how she discovered D.A., and her life prior to joining our Arts Department.

Mrs. Sharkey's passion for theater was fostered in a household of musicians. She attributes her lifelong love of music, drama, and storytelling to the foundations that her parents (her mother being a singer and her father a drummer) instilled in her throughout her youth. She pursued a degree in vocal performance under an opera program at the esteemed Westminster Choir College, which her predecessor, Ms. Mooney, coincidentally also attended, and attained a teaching position at a university in Pennsylvania shortly following graduation. At the age of twenty-five, she moved from Philadelphia to New York City, where she started an a cappella group and later served as the vocal director of a spinoff series of Sesame Street known as *Helpsters*. Deeming herself a freelancer, Mrs. Sharkey encountered various pursuits in the music and theater industry - from directing music within the cabaret scene, to composing music, to even playwriting. She principally followed her intuition and recognized when



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and where she was happiest. Regardless of the position she held, she sought to implement the arts to connect with and inspire others, as well as to hearten the creativity that she believes everybody possesses.

Although she was teaching at another school prior to joining the faculty at D.A., Mrs. Sharkey could not resist looking into the Music and Drama position about which Mrs. Mazzarra, her neighbor and our Finance Associate and Cafeteria Supervisor, had spoken to her. Charmed by our school and promptly recognizing that she wished to become part of our community, she describes the profound emotions that she encountered upon discovering that she had gotten the job, sharing that she burst into tears and, “felt as though everything had lined up for this opportunity and that all signs pointed to D.A.”

Unsure of the nature of the environment that she was joining, Mrs. Sharkey was delighted by the welcoming and benevolent spirit that she feels has been shown to her by both students and faculty, and is tremendously appreciative of how helpful and outgoing the community has been. Every day encompasses music and drama in some context, whether it be Music or Drama I or II, Liturgical Ensemble, or Senior Ensemble, which she is thankful to be able to perceive as more fun than work and deems greatly rewarding, even in its initial weeks.

Mrs. Sharkey’s zeal for music and drama extends beyond the classroom; outside of D.A., she pivots between

playwriting and composing. Describing the theater development process as extensive yet tremendously fulfilling, she is currently developing a project that mixes contemporary pop elements with classic musical theater and is excitedly awaiting the premiere of one of the songs at the New World Stages theater in the coming weeks. Also, as an avid reader, she indulges in fantasy and classic works and frequently participates in heavy lifting and yoga sessions, with her objective being to maintain her health to the best of her ability.

Moving forward, Mrs. Sharkey aspires to build a legacy at D.A. that resembles that of Ms. Mooney: auspicious, impactful, and lengthy. Having simultaneously juggled various gigs in the past, she is immensely relieved by the familiarity of going to the same place and collaborating with the same members of the D.A. community every day, striving to strengthen its Music and Drama program in all of her endeavors. These endeavors include potentially reinstating and introducing countless electives, such as music theory class, a playwriting course, and a ukulele class - all of which she is actively seeking to bring to life.

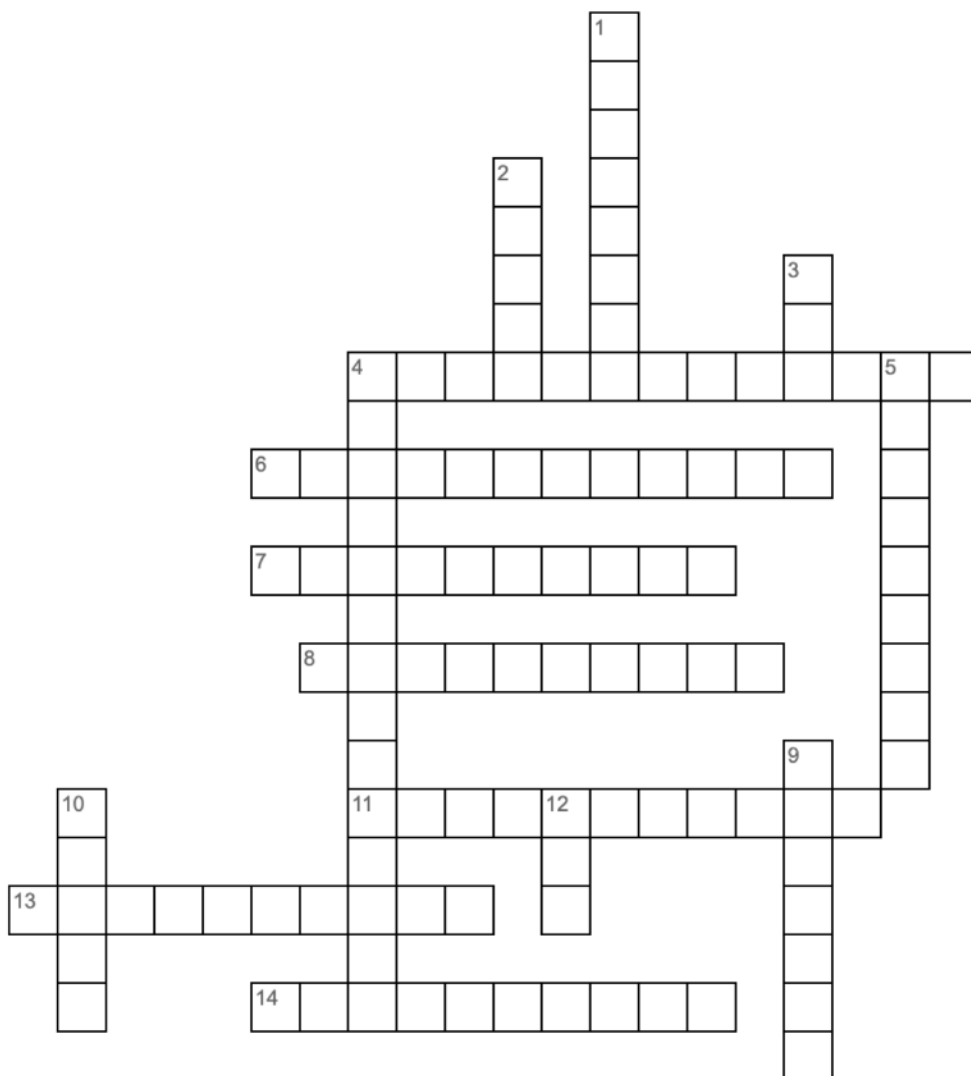
The countless qualities that Mrs. Sharkey brings to D.A.’s table are evident in her desire to connect with students and faculty alike, her passion for the arts, and her ambition to enhance the community that we call our own. We are incredibly excited to witness all that she can bring to 44 E 68th!



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Crossword #1- Welcome to D.A.!

By Mara L. '27 and Eileen L. '27





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CLUES

Across

4 D.A. seniors likely stayed up all night to get ready for this early-morning event

6 Welcome, class of ____!

7 First Mass of the school year (Mass of the ____)

8 This kind of food was offered at the freshman-senior picnic

11 Event on the first day of school

13 Summer ____ Camp introduces prospective students to life at D.A.

14 Welcome to this new music and drama teacher at D.A.!

Down

1 This event introduced students to D.A.'s many club opportunities

2 The ____ Scholars flew into China this summer for a cultural immersion and exchange program

3. D.A. seniors received training for this life-saving skill during orientation

4 This year's D.A. Playhouse performance will be...

5 Popular morning coffee spot for D.A. students

9 Dominican Academy mascot

10 First year abbreviation

12 This group of scholars had their induction ceremony on Monday, September 28th



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SOLUTIONS

Across

4 SENIORSUNRISE

6 TWENTYTHIRTY

7 HOLYSPIRIT

8 SANDWICHES

11 ORIENTATION

13 CONNECTION

14 MRSSHARKEY

Down

1 CLUBFAIR

2 RICCI

3 CPR

4 STEELMAGNOLIAS

5 STARBUCKS

9 DOMINIC

10 FROSH

12 NHS



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D.A. IN PHOTOS *Ricci Scholars China Trip*





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Senior Sunrise





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National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

